

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-08 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00 ACDA-07 CU-02 /126 W
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R 222341Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3278
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1214

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XA, XF
SUBJ: ISRAELI ROLE IN AFRICA AND OTHER MATTERS

SUMMARY: ISRAELI PERM REP HERZOG CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON
AMBASSADOR YOUNG APRIL 21. HE SAID HE PRINCIPALLY WISHED
TO MENTION A COUPLE OF IDEAS ABOUT POSSIBLE USEFULNESS OF
A RESUMED ROLE FOR ISRAEL IN AFRICA. HE ALSO MENTIONED
ISRAEL'S HOPE THAT THE US WOULD BE MAKING A STATEMENT IN ECOSOC
EXPOSING SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS VULNERABILITIES IN THE CSCE
CONTEXT. HERZOG ALSO MENTIONED ISRAEL'S HOPE THAT THE US AND
OTHER WESTERN FRIENDS WOULD MAKE NO REPLY TO THE RECENTLY
RECEIVED LETTER FROM PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FALL
(SENEGAL). END SUMMARY.

1. ISRAELI ROLE IN AFRICA: AMBASSADOR HERZOG SAID HE WANTED
TO SPEAK TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG BEFORE HIS POSSIBLE VISIT TO
AFRICA. FROM THE ISRAELI'S POINT OV VIEW, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN AFRICA HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THE MAIN THRUST OF SOVIET
FOREIGN POLICY AT PRESENT IS TOWARD AFRICA, NOT THE MIDDLE
EAST, WHERE ITS INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN STALEMATED.
HERZOG REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENT THAT ATTACKS
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ON ISRAEL IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE REALLY REFLECTED ANIMOSITIES
AGAINST THE WEST IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT. HERZOG SAID HE
THOUGHT A NEW ROLE FOR ISRAEL IN AFRICA MIGHT IMPROVE
TENSIONS INHERENT IN THIS LINKAGE.

2. HERZOG BRIEFLY DESCRIBED THE RELATIVELY LARGE AND
ACTIVE PRESENCE DEVELOPED BY ISRAEL IN AFRICA BEFORE THE

AFRICANS BROKE RELATIONS. PARTICULARLY IN SUCH COUNTRIES AS THE IVORY COAST, KENYA AND GHANA THERE WERE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL AND SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS OF AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURE AND OTHER FIELDS THAT THE HOST COUNTRIES STILL APPRECIATE. NOW, OF COURSE, ISRAEL MAINTAINS RELATIONS ONLY WITH MALAWI, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND, WHERE ISRAEL CONTINUES ITS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS. ISRAEL ALSO MAINTAINS INTEREST OFFICES IN THE IVORY COAST, KENYA AND GHANA.

3. HERZOG SAID THAT AT ITS PEAK, THIS BROADLY DESIGNED ISRAELI PROGRAM IN AFRICA WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. IT INVOLVED NOT ONLY IMAGINATIVE AID PROJECTS IN MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WARM INTER-GOVERMENTAL RELATIONS WITH THEM, BUT ALSO THOUSANDS OF AFRICAN STUDENTS WHO WERE BROUGHT TO ISRAEL FOR VARIOUS KINDS OF STUDY. ISRAEL CONSIDERED IT VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT WHEN THE AFRICAN STATES BEGAN TO TURN THEIR BACKS ON ISRAEL IN 1973, THE BEGINNING IMPETUS FOR THIS DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WAS CUBA'S INITIATIVE IN MAY 1973. AS ISRAEL NOW VIEWS THE MANY ACTIVITIES OF CUBA IN THE REGION, THEY BELIEVE CUBA IS FOLLOWING A CONSCIOUS STRATEGY TO REPLACE ISRAEL IN THE CONTINENT. CUBANS, WITH THE GENERAL SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET UNION, ARE CONCENTRATING ON MANY OF THE SAME AREAS WHERE ISRAEL HAD THE STRONGEST POSITIONS. FURTHERMORE, THE CUBAN PROJECTS OFTEN APPEARED TO BE AIMED AT THOSE AREAS OF ASSISTANCE WHERE THE ISRAELIS FOUND GREATEST SUCCESS.

4. AMBASSADOR HERZOG SAID THEY BELIEVE THE AFRICANS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE DESIGN OF THIS MOVE BY THE SOVIET UNION
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AND CUBA IN AFRICA AND ARE SINCERELY FRIGHTENED. THE ISRAELIS HAVE FOUND IN MANY RECENT PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS THAT INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS, REFLECTING WORRIES ABOUT THE COMMUNIST PRESENCE, WANT TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HE MENTIONED LIBERIA, THE IVORY COAST, GABON, ALL OF WHICH EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO MOVE BACK INTO RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, BUT HAVE A FEAR OF BEING ISOLATED IN THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY. HE SAID LIBERIA' PRESIDENT TOLBERT EXPRESSED THESE CONCERNS WHEN HE TOLD AN ISRAELI THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO REESTABLISH TIES WITH JERUSALEM BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER THE US WILL BACK THEM UP WHEN THEY BECOME ISOLATED.

5. HERZOG SAID THEY HAVE SUGGESTED TO A NUMBER OF AFRICANS THAT THEIR FIRST OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO BREAK THE CONSENSUS RULE IN THE OAU COMMUNITY, POSSIBLY THROUGH A FIGHT TO OBTAIN ADOPTION OF SUCH A MOTION IN THE OAU MINISTERIAL. THIS WOULD FREE AFRICAN STATES OF DOMINATION BY THE RADICAL MINORITY ON MANY ISSUES. HE SAID THEY HAD TWITTED SUCH AFRICAN LEADERS AS THE NIGERIANS ABOUT THEIR DECLINE

IN NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE UNDER CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN
THE AFRICAN/OAU BLOC.

6. HERZOG SAID THE FIRST SUGGESTION HE WISHED TO PRE-
SENT FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S CONSIDERATION WAS THAT AS HE
WORKS WITH AFRICANS AND AFRICAN PROBLEMS IT WOULD BE USEFUL
FOR THE US TO PUSH WITH FRIENDLY AFRICANS FOR A BREAK IN
THE CONSENSUS RULES WHICH DOMINATE THEM.

7. HE WENT ON TO SUGGEST ALSO IN THIS LINE THAT THE US
COULD ENCOURAGE SOME GROUP OF AFRICAN STATES TO BAND TO-
GETHER IN TAKING THE LEAD TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL, THUS BREAKING THE UNANIMITY LINE. THE PRINCIPAL OB-
JECT OF SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD BE TO FACILITATE A RETURN TO
THE CONTINENT OF ISRAEL, WITH ITS FRIENDLY PRESENCE, ITS
HELPFUL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND POTENTIALLY ITS POLITICAL
INFLUENCE AGAINST COMMUNIST INCURSIONS.
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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 1214

8. HORN OF AFRICA: HERZOG DERIDED A THEME OFTEN EXPRESSED
BY EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT, WHO CONSIDERS EGYPT AND HIMSELF
SAVIORS OF AFRICA. HERZOG SAID EGYPT IS SUPPORTING THE
ERITREAN DISSIDENTS IN ETHIOPIA AND FORCING ETHIOPIA INTO THE

ARMS OF THE SOVIETS. HE AGREED THAT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETYIOPIA WAS TOO DEEP-SEATED FOR SHORT TERM MANEUVERS BY THE SOVIETS, BUT HE SAID THE EGYPTIANS ARE TOTALLY IGNORING THE SOMALI FACTOR IN THE HORN WHICH IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE. HE POINTED OUT THAT SUDAN NOW HAS JOINED IN VIRTUAL CONFEDERATION WITH EGYPT AND IS SUPPORTING THE ERITREANS. HE APPEARED TO BE OF THE VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT CEDE ETHIOPIA TO SOVIET INFLUENCE, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS PRONE TO AGREE THAT THE SOVIETS PROBABLY HAVE AS MUCH AS THEY CAN HANDLE THERE.

9. HERZOG COMMENTED THAT THE AFRICANS HAVE NOT CONDUCTED A SERIOUS ATTACK ON ISRAEL IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR OTHER UN BODIES IN THE RECENT PAST. HE NOTED THAT THE AFRICANS HAD SOUGHT SOME ISRAELI HELP IN UNESCO.

10. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THE MAIN THING IN HIS MIND WHEN HE CONSIDERS SUPPORTING ISRAEL IN AFRICA IS A QUESTION ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE EFFECT IN MAPUTO OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ISRAELI TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA COMPRISED ONLY A MINUSCULE PART OF SOUTH AFRICA'S TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE. HE REFERRED ALSO, HOWEVER, TO A CASE IN WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAD SOLD TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS A PATENT ON A SOPHISTICATED AUTOMATIC WEAPON, AND SAID THAT CASE HURT ISRAEL'S IMAGE IN AFRICA. HERZOG SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF SUCH A CASE BUT COULD SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT THERE ARE NO ARMS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN INVENTORY MANUFACTURED IN ISRAEL. HE OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE TEXTS OF HIS DETALIED STATEMENTS IN THE GA REJECTING THIS CHARGE, AND A SURVEY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ARMS INVENTORY SHOWING NO ISRAELI MANUFACTURED WEAPON. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT OVER FIFTY PERCENT OF THE WHITES ARRESTED FOR ACTIVITIES IN OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICAN WERE JEWISH, MEMBERS OF A VERY LARGE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE REPUBLIC.

11. HUMAN RIGHTS: HERZOG SAID THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE GRATIFIED IF THE US WERE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS VULNERABILITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CSCE IN ECOSOC. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS SUGGESTION.

12. PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE: HERZOG ALSO SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT THE US, ALONG WITH OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS, WOULD REFRAIN FROM ANSWERING THE RECENT LETTER FROM THE PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE (FROM FALL, SENEGAL). HE COMMENTED THAT IN THE ISRAELI VIEW A RESPONSE TO THAT LETTER WOULD CONSTITUTE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE COMMITTEE.

13. MIDDLE EAST DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL: HERZOG
SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN THINKING OF
PRESSING FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST DEBATE ON THE
SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT. HE ESTIMATES THAT THEY WILL NOT
ACTIVELY PERSERVERE ALONG THIS LINE BECAUSE OF THEIR CURRENT
SQUABBLE WITH THE LIBYANS. HE THOUGH IT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER,
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THAT THE EGYPTIANS MIGHT SEEK RESUMPTION OF THE DEBATE SOME-
TIME IN MAY, WHEN "THEIR" DEBATE MIGHT PREEMPT ATTENTION FROM
THE UNDOF RENEWAL ITEM INVOLVING THE SYRIANS.
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, XF, XA, UR, CU, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (HERZOG, CHAIM)
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